



Remarks

In the above identified Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 9-17 as unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. in view of Shimomura et al. The Examiner has stated that it would have been obvious to modify and optimize the multiple heaters taught by Kobayashi with varying the electrical power of the upper and lower heater's electrodes in order to have independent control. Applicant has cancelled claims 9-17, added new claims 18-28 and has now claimed the invention so as to recite over Kobayashi in combination with Shimomura.

More specifically, Applicant now recites a heat shield means for defining the temperature distribution by the plurality of heaters. Thus, as stated in the specification, page 14, paragraph 47, the heat shield suppresses the mutual thermal interference between the adjacent heaters and localizes the heating regions for the adjacent heaters. Neither Kobayashi nor Shimomura teaches such a means for localization by the heat shields.

More particularly, Kobayashi, which does teach heat shields, could not be used for a teaching of localizing heat effects for the heaters since his heat shields substantially cover the entire area outside of the crucible with no localizing effects whatsoever.

As a result, Applicant believes the claims 18-28, as now presented, are allowable.

Applicant hereby requests reconsideration and reexamination thereof.

With the above amendments and remarks, Applicant believes this application to be allowable and earnestly solicits early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, she is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 11, 2008

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